



Spring eNewsletter

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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Board Certified in Audiology

Board Secretary:

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Stephen M. White, Esq., Public Member

Message from the Board President

A warm welcome everyone to this Spring edition of the licensure board's eNewsletter. We have important updates to share regarding the professions, so please be sure to review our information. Updates of interest include new continuing education requirements for hearing aid fitters that went into effect on January 1, 2023, continuing education audits, rule changes for 2023, and resources from the Ohio Department of Health for newborn and infant hearing screenings. The month of May is also Better Hearing and Speech Month and we hope you will join us to help raise awareness about communication disorders throughout the month. As one of my professors used to say, "Get up there and show off!", when it came time to turn in an assignment or speak in front of class and be an example of hard

work and honing skills and knowledge. Celebrate your expertise, each other and your patients, put yourselves and your valuable skills "out there" with your collaborators, other professionals and referral sources. Many look to us to be THE professionals to go-to for improving communication of all sorts. Know that at the Board, we appreciate you as much as each patient/client for whom you provide services and make a difference. Check out our links to resources from other organizations that you can share with your consumers. We also have an updated website and the latest information about the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Message from the Executive Director

I would like to welcome everyone to this edition of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board's eNewsletter. We have important updates and information inside this edition about the continuing education audits, new continuing education requirements for hearing aid fitters

that took effect on January 1, 2023, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, Food and Drug Administration's rules on Over-the-Counter hearing aids, duty to report, professional experience requirements for conditional speech-language

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Message from the Board President

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On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of our licensees for continued professionalism, passion and expertise in maximizing communication skills for Ohioans.

Sincerely yours,
Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A, FAAA,
Board Certified in Audiology
Board President

Message from the Executive Director

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pathology, responsibilities when patients/clients request a copy of their audiogram, clarification about speech assistants, and other licensure updates. We also have information to share from our stakeholder agency, the Ohio Department of Health Infant Hearing Program.

If you have a question, issue, or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us. We invite you to visit our homepage at www.shp.ohio.gov to stay updated throughout the year.

If you recently contacted the Board for services or information, please take a moment to complete our customer service [survey](#) and let us know your opinion about that experience.

Best Regards,
Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.
Executive Director

Important Information

Has your contact information changed?

Updating your contact information is now a self service process in the new eLicense Ohio system. See the update inside this edition for details on how to register and access your license through your new eLicense Ohio dashboard.

All licensees are required to update any change of name, place of business, or mailing address within thirty days of said change.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Reminder: Board and Committee meetings are open to the public.
- Public comment is welcome at all Board meetings.
- Please visit our website at www.shp.ohio.gov for the latest updates and information.

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8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Board office is closed during observance of state holidays

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Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board



ASLP-IC - Updates

On July 1, 2021, Ohio became the fourteenth state to join the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) when Governor Mike DeWine signed HB252 into law. The ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact which allows audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. The provisions and requirements for Ohio's ASLP-IC are specified under Ohio Revised Code section 4753.17. In our Winter 2022 newsletter edition, we reported that fifteen states had already passed similar bills to join the compact. As of this edition, there are now 26 states that have joined the compact, with an additional 14 states that have legislation pending. By the end of 2023, we anticipate having over 40 states in the compact, with the goal of having all 50 states participating by the end of 2024. For practitioners who work in Ohio and also across state lines in neighboring states such as Indiana, Kentucky or West Virginia, the ASLP-IC will address the increased demand to provide/receive audiology and speech-language pathology services and authorizes in-person and telepractice service delivery to patients/clients.

The ASLP-IC is not yet fully operational to receive and process applications. Practitioners will be able to apply some time before the end of 2024. In April, the ASLP-IC Commission held a special commission meeting of state delegates and approved by-laws, rules, and authorized personnel to begin the search for an Executive Director who will manage the day-to-day operations. The Commission is also in process of hiring a vendor who will design the database that member states will use to upload licensure data in order to process applications, verify eligibility, and report any disciplinary actions taken against licensees. Each state licensure board that is part of the compact appointed one audiologist and one speech-language pathologist to serve on the commission. The Ohio licensure board selected Tammy Brown as the audiology delegate and Steven Griffin as the speech-language pathology delegate. Gregg Thornton was also appointed by the Commission's Executive Committee to serve as one of the five at-large delegates, in his role as a licensure board administrator. Ms. Brown serves on the Executive Committee and Mr. Thornton is the Chair of the Rules Committee.

If you are interested in learning more about the ASLP-IC, please use the following link: <https://aslpcompact.com/>. Click here for information regarding ASLP-IC meetings, proposed rules, and comment submission: <https://aslpcompact.com/commission/>. There is also a map showing the list of member states at: <https://aslpcompact.com/compact-map/>

Licensure Statistics

As of May 1, 2023

Audiologists:	1104
Audiology Aides:	74
Conditional SLPs:	299
Dual-Aud. & SLP	23
Hearing Aid Dealers:	199
Hearing Aid Satellites:	391
Hearing Aid Fitters:	386
Inactive Audiology:	36
Inactive Speech-Language Path.: 246	
Speech-Language Pathologists:	8115
SLP Aides:	4
Trainee Permit Holders	54
Total Licenses:	10,921

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Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board



May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Across the country, the month of May is widely regarded as Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM). In 2012, Ohio passed a law officially recognizing this month as BHSM. This is a great opportunity to promote this year's BHSM theme, "Connecting People."

The Board encourages everyone to raise awareness about communication disorders and the importance of early intervention. The following organizations have posted BHSM resources on their website. (Note: the information and links below do not constitute an endorsement by the Board.)

The American Academy of Audiology has resources such as posters and fact sheets posted at:
<https://www.audiology.org/get-involved/public-awareness/may-is-better-hearing-month>.

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association has posted resources to help you recognize all month long at:
<https://www.asha.org/bhsm/>.

The International Hearing Society has posted BHSM resources at:
https://myhome.ihsinfo.org/myhome/Better_Hearing_Month_HWSV_Teaser.aspx

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders has BHSM information at:
<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>
<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health>

If you would like to view our state law designating the month of May as BHSM in Ohio, here is the link:
<https://codes.ohio.gov/orc/gp5.2281v1>.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Continuing Education and Ethics Requirement Reminder

Continuing Education & Ethics Resources Available at: <http://shp.ohio.gov/ce-ethics>

The Board would like to remind all licensees about their respective continuing education requirements for the 2023-2024 practice period.



Requirements for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are required to complete twenty hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-4-01. At least ten hours of continuing education must be specific to the clinical practice in the area the person is licensed. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists required to complete continuing education have until December 31, 2024 to complete their hours.

New Requirements for Hearing Aid Fitters effective January 1, 2023

Hearing aid fitters are required to complete twenty hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-11. At least ten hours shall be specific to the measurement and testing of human hearing, the making of impressions for earmolds, or selecting and adapting of hearing aids. Continuing education clock hours must be acquired in subjects related to hearing aid fitting or audiology. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Licensed hearing aid fitters required to complete continuing education have until December 31, 2024 to complete their hours.

Continuing Education (CE) Audits for the 2021-2022 Biennium

The Board will send CE audit notifications via e-mail to selected licensees in August 2023. Licensees are required to keep records of their continuing education for a period of four years after the date of renewal. If you receive an audit notification, you must submit appropriate documentation demonstrating completion of the continuing education hours. Please see the article above for the continuing education requirements for audiologists, hearing aid fitters, and speech-language pathologists. Acceptable documentation must show the name of the continuing education provider, date of attendance, subject, e.g., title and course description, number of clock hours, and your name. The best documentation is a copy of the official ASHA/AAA/IHS registry, college transcript, or a certificate of completion for a workshop, seminar, class or in-service training.

Some key reminders if you receive an audit notification:

- Receiving an audit letter is nothing to be concerned about and does not mean the licensee has done something wrong. The Board is required to audit up to ten percent of licensees to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements.
- CE Broker is the Board's official continuing education tracking system. Licensees selected for an audit must submit their documentation directly to CE Broker using a free basic account.
- Verification of your continuing education shall reflect that continuing education hours were completed from 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2022. Any hours that exceed 20 may not be carried over into the next renewal period.
- Upon completion of the Board's review of your continuing education documentation, you will receive a notification regarding your compliance.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Attention Licensed Hearing Aid Dealers, Hearing Aid Fitters, and Trainee Permit Holders - New OAC Chapter 4747-1 Rules Took Effect January 1, 2023

The Board amended the following rules under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 4747-1, which became effective on January 1, 2023.



Trainee Permit Holders

OAC section 4747-1-11(B) was amended as follows:

- When a trainee permit is renewed, a physician's statement is no longer required.
- When a trainee permit is not renewed within 30 days of the initial expiration date, the trainee shall attest that the trainee has not engaged in unlicensed activity on the renewal application.
- The Board shall not renew a trainee permit to an individual more than one time.

OAC section 4747-1-14(B) was amended as follows:

- Added section (B)(3) - Upon completing supervision under a trainee permit, the trainee permit holder shall attest that the trainee permit holder and supervisor have complied with all the supervision requirements under section 4747.10 of the Revised Code and this rule.

Hearing Aid Dealers

OAC section 4747-1-17(B) was amended as follows:

- A licensed hearing aid dealer shall notify the Board of any sale of its licensed hearing aid business no later than thirty days from the date of the sale.

Hearing Aid Fitters

OAC section 4747-1-11(C) was amended as follows:

- At least 10 of the 20 continuing education hours shall be specific to the measurement and testing of human hearing, the making of impressions for earmolds, or selecting and adapting of hearing aids.
- Licensee shall retain supporting documents of continuing education for inspection by the Board for four years after the date of renewal.

Note: The following continuing education requirement was not changed and remains in effect: at least 2 of the 20 hours of continuing education shall relate to ethics.

All Chapter 4747 Licensees

OAC section 4747-1-15(F)

- Removed reference to "good moral character" as this is no longer a qualifying ground under which the Board may refuse to issue a license or trainee permit.

The amendments to these rules will be updated by the Legislative Service Commission after January 1, 2023: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-4747-1>.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

FAQs for OTC Hearing Aids



As previously reported, on August 17, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized its rules to establish a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids. The final rules went into effect on October 17, 2022. The rules will allow hearing aids within this category to be sold directly to consumers in stores or online without a medical exam or a hearing test or a fitting by an audiologist or hearing aid fitter. Though the FDA's regulations emphasize that the sale of OTC hearing aids is not within the board's jurisdiction, the regulations qualify that OTC hearing aids are only intended for adults with perceived mild-to-moderate hearing loss. The FDA's news release, which includes a link to the final regulations, can be accessed at the following link: [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#).

FAQ for OTC Hearing Aids

The Board has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for OTC hearing aids on its website at: <https://shp.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/otc-hearing-aid-faq>

Impact to the Board's Laws and Rules

The Board completed its review of its laws and rules that are impacted by the FDA's final regulations. We are in the process of amending Ohio Administrative Code sections [4747-1-19 \(I\) and \(J\)](#) and [4753-8-03 \(C\)](#) dealing with the physician clearance/waiver system. Under the final regulations, the FDA repealed the conditions for sale that require a medical clearance and/or medical waiver under section 801.421(a). Therefore, as of October 17, 2022, an audiologist or hearing aid fitter will no longer be required to obtain a written statement from a prospective user of a hearing aid that their hearing loss has been medically evaluated and may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid. The FDA also repealed the requirement allowing for a written waiver of the medication evaluation signed by the prospective user. The Board will be amending these rules before the end of 2023. Accordingly, until such time that the Board can rescind the medical clearance and medical waiver provisions from OAC sections 4747-1-19 and 4753-8-03, the medical clearance and medical waiver requirements are no longer in effect for prescription hearing aids for persons eighteen years of age and older.

Please note that licensed audiologists and hearing aid fitters engaged in the sale, fitting, and dispensing of prescriptive hearing aids must still follow best practices, perform appropriate hearing test procedures, make appropriate medical referrals for "red flag" conditions upon inspection and/or examination of a prospective user's ear canal and/or case history, and adhere to their respective scopes of practice, as specified under Ohio Revised Code Chapters 4747 for hearing aid dealers and hearing aid fitters and 4753 for audiologists. We will have further updates regarding these rule changes later this year.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Important Reminder for Spring Graduates Applying for Licensure and Conditional SLPs competing their experience



The Board would like to congratulate individuals who will graduate this Spring from graduate level programs in audiology and speech-language pathology. Individuals who plan to practice in Ohio should submit their application four to six weeks prior to graduation, to ensure a sufficient amount of time to process your application. Please visit the Board's website to access the eLicense Ohio licensing system to register for your eLicense user account. For individuals applying for their conditional speech-language pathology license, this is a reminder that the supervised professional experience plan, amended plan, and report and contacts log must be submitted within thirty calendar days. For instance, the supervised professional experience plan is due within thirty days of the start date of employment. An amended plan is due within thirty days of a change in the supervised professional experience start or end date, a change in supervisors, or change in employment. The report and contacts log is due within thirty days upon completion of the supervised professional experience or partial completion of the supervised professional experience. The Board's forms and instructions to complete the supervised professional experience are available on our website at: <https://shp.ohio.gov/forms>.

During the months of May through July, those holding a conditional speech-language pathology license are in the process of completing their supervised professional experience. The Board would also like to remind supervised professional experience supervisors that supervision of the conditional licensee must continue after the Report and Contacts log is submitted to the board office. Ohio Administrative Code sections 4753-3-07 (D)(2) and (G)(2) state in relevant part:

(D) - Supervisor qualifications and responsibilities.

(2) The supervisor shall agree to supervise the practice of speech-language pathology experience of the applicant according to a plan approved by the board.

(G) - Supervised professional experience report and supervision contacts log.

(G)(2) After submission of the "Supervised Professional Experience Report" and "Supervision Contacts Log," the conditional licensee shall abide by the requirements for conditional licensure until full licensure is granted.

When the conditional licensee and professional experience year supervisor have signed the Report and Contacts Log, the conditional licensee must submit the document within thirty calendar days of completion of the professional experience. The professional experience year supervisor shall continue to supervise the conditional licensee until the Board approves the Report and Contacts Log and issues the conditional licensee their speech-language pathology license. Supervisors should check with the conditional licensee to verify timely submission of the Report and Contacts log. The status of the conditional licensee's license should be verified from the eLicense Ohio website, license look-up page at: <https://shp.ohio.gov/license-lookup>. If there are any issues or concerns, the licensure board should be contacted at: (614) 466-3145 or via e-mail at: board@shp.ohio.gov.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

ODE Pupil Service License - HB 442 - Reminder

House Bill 442 amended Section 3319.221 of the Ohio Revised Code to create a new option for individuals who hold a professional license as a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, registered nurse holding a bachelor's degree in nursing, physical therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants, and social workers. These individuals will be able to apply, through the CORE licensing system, for a registration to allow them to serve in their given occupation on either a full time or substitute basis, without the need to hold the previously available pupil services license. The registration will cost \$150.00 dollars and be valid for five years. It will require validation of the professional license, and a transcript showing the appropriate degree for school nurses only, as well as our required background checks. After five years, they will only require validation of continuing to hold the required professional license and background checks to renew. There are no other renewal requirements. The bill went into effect on April 7, 2021 and the Ohio Department of Education's Department of Educator License has information about the new registrations posted on their website at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Apply-for-Certificate-License/Pupil-Services-Licenses>.



It is very important to understand that the Pupil Services License is not going away and practitioners who hold their pupil service license can continue to renew it. The fee for the Pupil Services License is \$200.00. Each applicant is going to need to make their own decision as to whether or not to renew the pupil service license or switch to the pupil service registration, depending on their needs. The Board urges licensees to check with their school district or educational service center to verify whether they will continue to require related service personnel to hold the pupil service license or will accept the registration as a condition of employment.

The Board has been informed that the Department of Education is forming a cross-agency team to address questions that have arisen about registration and how to provide training to those who are pursuing registration and do not have a school background or training. For more information, please visit the Office for Exceptional Children's website at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Office-of-Exceptional-Children-Contact-Information>.

The Board would also like to remind audiologists and speech-language pathologists working in the school setting under a pupil service registration of their ethical duty to be proficient in areas of practice and provide only services to students for which he/she is properly trained. [See Board rule 4753-9-01\(B\)\(4\) and \(C\)\(3\)\(b\)](#).

Ohio Dyslexia Committee - Update

As announced in previous eNewsletters, board member Steven Griffin, M.A., CCC-SLP, was appointed to the Ohio Dyslexia Committee as the representative for speech-language pathology. The Ohio Dyslexia Committee was created after passage of House Bill 436 in 2020 to develop a guidebook regarding the best practices and methods for universal screening, intervention, and remediation for children with dyslexia or using multi-sensory structured literacy programs. In 2022, the State Board of Education approved the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook.

For more information, please visit the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Dyslexia resource page at: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Dyslexia>. A copy of the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook can be downloaded at: [Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook](#).

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Board Reminds Practitioners of Duty to Report

The Board would like to remind practitioners of their duty to report direct, first-hand knowledge, of violations under Ohio Revised and Administrative Code sections 4744, 4747 and 4753. All licensees practice under a Code of Ethics. For hearing aid dealers, fitters, and trainees, the duty to report is specified under Ohio Administrative Code section [4747-1-23](#) (B)(10), which states: licensees shall report to the board any violation of the board rules or any breach of the code of ethics of which that the licensee is aware. For audiologists, speech-language pathologists, conditional speech-language pathologists, and aides, the duty to report is specified under Ohio Administrative Code section [4753-9-01](#) (B)(10), which also states: licensees shall report to the board any violation of the board rules or any breach of the code of ethics of which that the licensee is aware. Licensees have a duty and responsibility to report known violations of the practice act and breach of the code of ethics. Licensees can report violations by submitting a complaint on the eLicense Ohio website: [File a Complaint–Duty to Report](#). You may also contact the Board office and request to speak with the Executive Director, Gregg Thornton, if you have questions about whether a situation should be reported. The Duty to Report requirement is an important component to a practitioner’s responsibility under their license, as well as ensuring consumer protection.



Speech Assistants versus Speech-Language Pathology Aides: What is the difference in Ohio and Why Does It Matter?

Support personnel can assist audiologists and speech-language pathologists with their duties to provide services to patients, clients, and students across all work settings. Ohio has licensed support personnel since 1992, when [Ohio Revised Code section 4753.072](#) became law. In Ohio, our licensed support personnel are called Audiology Aides and Speech-Language Pathology Aides. The Board adopted rules delineating the qualifications for licensure and the requirements for their training, allowed duties, and supervision under [Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4753-7](#).

The educational requirements for a speech-language pathology aide or audiology aide is a high school diploma or equivalent. For states that license speech and audiology assistants, the educational requirements are either a 2-year or 4-year college degree. Aides in Ohio receive customized and hands-on training by their supervisor, perform duties that support specified aspects of record keeping and screenings subject to a pass/fail determination, pursuant to [Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-6-01](#).

Speech Assistants are another type of support personnel licensed in other states to assist speech-language pathologists. Ohio does not recognize or license speech assistants. Speech assistants in other states can provide broader duties, such as managing a caseload and providing direct services to patients, clients, or students under supervision. In Ohio, a speech-language pathology aide cannot perform these duties and cannot work independently.

Employers posting positions for support personnel need to be aware of the type of support personnel that the Ohio licensure board recognizes and licenses. Employers and contract companies should not list “Speech Assistant” or “SLP-A” as these titles misrepresent the type of support personnel that is recognized and licensed in Ohio.

Speech-language pathology and audiology aides serve an important role to supporting speech-language pathologists and audiologists in specified aspects of record keeping and screenings. Please refer to the above referenced laws and rules in order to be compliant with Ohio’s requirements for support personnel for speech-language pathology and audiology.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

From the Ohio Department of Health Infant Hearing Program

We received the following information from the Ohio Department of Health Infant Hearing Program. It is their Stakeholder Report featuring Ohio's EHDI CDC Hearing Screening. Based on feedback ODH received from their 2020 report out, they have shown a comparison between last year and this year and included JCIH benchmark data for 1-3-6 goals.

Ohio Infant Hearing Program CDC Hearing Screening & Follow up Survey (HSFS)

2020 - 2021



updated 3/2/2023

SCREENING SUMMARY	2020	2021
Total births	130,011	130,424
Percent screened	97.47%	97.20%
Percent screened by 1 month of age	96.15%	95.43%
Percent non-pass	4.43%	4.42%
Percent not screened	2.53%	2.80%
Straight to Diagnostic Evaluation	4.55%	5.52%
Deceased	19.18%	18.24%
Parents/family refused	7.37%	6.84%
Homebirths	58.51%	61.55%
Other ^a	10.38%	7.85%
INITIAL DIAGNOSIS SUMMARY	2020	2021
Percent with a diagnosis ^b	74.85%	76.86%
Percent with a diagnosis by 3 months of age ^b	62.37%	66.20%
Percent diagnosed with Normal Hearing ^b	67.49%	70.12%
Percent diagnosed with Permanent Hearing Loss ^b	5.11%	4.90%
Percent diagnosed with Transient Hearing Loss ^b	2.26%	1.85%
Percent with no diagnosis after non-pass screening ^c	25.82%	23.98%
Parents/family refused	16.99%	18.41%
Parents/family unresponsive	57.87%	59.69%
Unable to contact	18.99%	14.38%
Other ^a	6.15%	7.53%
Percent lost to follow up for diagnosis ^{c, d}	19.94%	17.94%
EARLY INTERVENTION SUMMARY ^e	2020	2021
Total cases of hearing loss	294	284
Percent enrolled in Part-C Early Intervention	50.00%	46.83%
Percent enrolled in Part-C Early Intervention by 6 months of age	33.67%	32.39%
Percent not enrolled in Early Intervention	50.00%	52.82%
Diagnosis changed to no hearing loss	17.01%	15.33%
Parents/family refused	27.21%	46.00%
Parents/family unresponsive	27.21%	20.00%
Unable to contact	9.52%	3.33%
Other ^a	19.05%	15.33%
Percent lost to follow up for early intervention ^f	19.05%	13.03%

Sources: Ohio HiTrack EHDI Data Management System, Vital Statistics

^a Other: includes non-resident, medical condition, adoption, early discharges, infants transferred with no documentation and unknowns (screening); in process, non-resident, medical reasons, deceased, other and unknowns (evaluation); not eligible, deceased, non-resident, medical reasons, other and unknowns (intervention)

^b Denominator is total number of infants not passing final hearing screening and infants who went straight to a diagnostic without a screening

^c Denominator is total number of infants not passing final hearing screening

^d Dx LTFU = (# unable to contact + # unresponsive + # unknown) / (# of non-pass screenings) x 100

^e Early Intervention Summary only contains data for babies where initial diagnosis was a Permanent Hearing Loss; enrollment numbers also include Non-Part C services

^f EI LTFU = (# unable to contact + # unresponsive + # unknown) / (Total cases of hearing loss) x 100

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Important Reminder - Hearing Tests Are Medical Records and Must Be Provided to the Patient/Client Upon Request



It has recently come to the Board's attention that some practitioners are denying patients/clients a copy of their hearing test results, e.g., audiogram, after providing a free hearing test and the consumer ultimately decides not to purchase the hearing aids from the licensee and instead requests a copy of their audiogram.

This is an important reminder that denying a consumer a copy of their audiogram may be grounds for disciplinary action by the Board. Pursuant to federal laws, such as the Health Integrity Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), consumers have a right to their medical records and information. A hearing test, such as an audiogram, is considered a medical record, which the consumer has a right to obtain.

When hearing tests are performed for free, who owns the test results, e.g., the provider, the consumer, the facility?

Licensees in private practice and healthcare facilities where licensees are employer have primary control and maintenance of all healthcare records for their patients/clients. Terms and conditions under which the consumer can receive a copy of their healthcare records should be covered under the terms of service that practitioners and/or facilities require the consumer to sign. These terms include, but are not limited to, a full disclosure of terms for service(s), fees for provided services, including tests, and any fees for missed appointments, etc.. The terms of agreement should specify that patients have a right to their health records and information, how they can request copies of their records, how long it can take to provide copies of requested records and whether a fee will be charged for copies.

What rights do consumers have regarding access to their health records?

As previously mentioned, HIPAA affords consumers with rights to their health records, information, and safeguards to protect confidential information from being disclosed to third parties without express authorization from the consumer. There is also state law, which licensees must follow under Ohio Revised Code §3701.741, which is more fully referenced below.

Can an audiologist, hearing aid dealer or facility providing audiologic testing/hearing testing who offers a free hearing test then later charge a patient for the test results?

Yes, a licensee can charge a fee for the test results, even though they advertised and provided a free hearing test to the patient/client/consumer. However, the following should be taken into consideration by the licensee.

- First and foremost, the consumer should never be denied access to a copy of their hearing test or any other type of test results.
- Fees charged to consumers for a copy of their health record(s) must be reasonable and must be disclosed to the consumer.
- Passing along the costs of the free hearing test as the cost for the requested audiogram is strictly prohibited. Charges for medical records are clearly outlined in ORC § 3701.741. Costs for an audiogram would be \$2.75 – as provided in ORC § 3701.741(B)(1)(a)(i).

Is advertising a free hearing test, then charging for it ethical; Is it in accordance with Ohio Code?

An advertisement giving notice of a free hearing test must also contain notice if a fee will be charged to the consumer when requesting a copy of their audiogram. Denying a consumer a copy of their audiogram when providing a free hearing test would be unethical and grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Important Reminder - Hearing Tests Are Medical Records and Must Be Provided to the Patient/Client Upon Request (continued)



When requesting copies of hearing tests or audiologic test results, can a consumer be charged a fee greater than set forth in Ohio Code for copies of their health records?

No, for the reasons previously stated, charges for medical and health related records must be in accordance with ORC § 3701.741.

Is charging fees greater than what is allowed permitted under the Board's Code of Ethics?

Licensees who charge consumers fees for a copy of their test results or other information greater than what is allowed are at risk of being in violation of the Board's Code of Ethics. The Board urges licensees to review their respective code of ethics. The Codes of Ethics are specified under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules, which must be followed. The Code of Ethics for hearing aid dealers and fitters are specified under OAC Chapter 4747-1-23 and for audiologists and speech-language pathologists under OAC Chapter 4753-9.

Licensees also have a duty to report to the Board violations of its laws and rules governing the professions. Complaints may be reported via our complaint portal in eLicense Ohio at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_filecomplaint.

eLicense Service Requests

Licensees must login to their eLicense account and submit a Service Request under "Options" for the following:

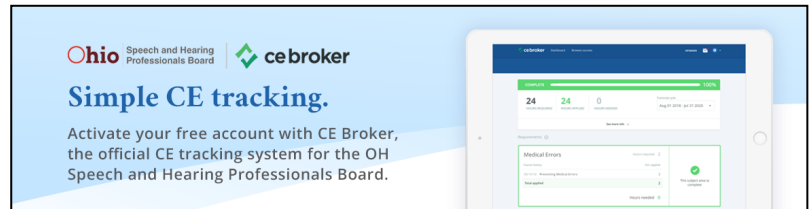
- Name changes
- Updating contact information, e.g., mailing address, employment, e-mail address, etc.
- License verification to another state

Want to know when your Service Requests have been processed? Go to your [eLicense dashboard](#). Click the "My History" button. Choose "Service Requests" from the 'History Type' drop down and view the status column results.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

CE Broker - Sign-up Today!

[CE Broker](#) is the official CE tracking system of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. You will never have to pay for a CE Broker Basic Account. However, licensees do have the option to subscribe to an upgraded account, which offers additional CE tracking tools. Please visit the Board's website at <https://shp.ohio.gov/continuing-education> to learn more.



HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR FREE CE BROKER ACCOUNT?

1. Visit www.cebroke.com/oh/plans
2. Select the Basic Account option
3. Enter your license number and get started tracking your continuing education!

Comprehensive Course Search

The [CE Broker Course Search](#) helps you find every course you need to complete your license renewal. To find courses, visit courses.cebroke.com/search/oh and select your profession.

Helpful Support Center

CE Broker's dedicated support center is available 8AM-8PM ET Monday - Friday with a team of experts trained on the rules and regulations of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. Reach them by phone at 877-434-6323 or via [email and live chat](#).

Benefits of using CE Broker

- Track your continuing education hours required to renew your Ohio license;
- Know precisely how many hours you've completed and how many hours are remaining;
- Exemption from a continuing education audit once your 20 hours are reported
- Bring CE compliance wherever you go with the CE Broker mobile app. Available on iPhone and Android from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

OMNIE: Refreshed - Speech and Language Guidelines

Watch for the new OMNIE: Refreshed coming soon. Until then, topic modules are still maintained and accessible on the Ohio Master's Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) website at: <https://omnie.ocali.org/>. The topics are maintained and updated by practitioners regarded for their expertise, knowledge and experience over the subject areas addressed. The guidelines and resources support school based practitioners, including intervention specialists, teachers, administrators and parents. Accessing the modules will require you to register for a free account which will only take a few minutes, and is highly encouraged to ensure that funding continues in order to maintain and develop additional modules.



OSHBPB SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR—2023



March 15

March 16

April 3

April 17

May 1

May 9

May 15

May 29

June 1

June 15

June 19

July 3

July 4

July 17

August 1

August 9

August 15

September 1

September 4

Application Review and Approval

Board Meeting & Rules Committee Meeting

Application Review and Approval

Application Review and Approval

Better Hearing and Speech Month Begins

Board Meeting & Professional Competency Committee Meeting

Application Review and Approval

State Holiday - Memorial Day - Board Office Closed

Application Review and Approval

Application Review and Approval

State Holiday - Juneteenth Day - Board Office Closed

Application Review and Approval

State Holiday - Independence Day - Board Office Closed

Application Review and Approval

Application Review and Approval

Board Meeting

Application Review and Approval

Application Review and Approval

State Holiday - Labor Day - Board Office Closed

Reminder—audiology, audiology aide, hearing aid dealers, hearing aid fitters, speech-language pathology, and speech-language pathology aide licenses will expire on at midnight on December 31, 2022.

Note: Board & Committee meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Visit our website to confirm

Please visit the Board's website at www.shp.ohio.gov for the specific time and location of the Board and committee meetings. In addition, you may also download the Board's agenda and meeting minutes.

Please note that this calendar is subject to change without notice.



Ask the Board:

Regular Feature

Frequently asked questions will appear in each newsletter.



Are patients/clients entitled to a copy of their hearing test? inside this edition for more information.

Yes, consumers are entitled to a copy of their hearing test results, e.g., audiogram. Practitioners have an ethical responsibility to provide consumers with unfettered access to their health documents and information, even if tests are provided for free and the consumer ultimately decides not to purchase services or hearing aids from the practitioner. Refusing to provide a copy of the audiogram to the consumer may be grounds for disciplinary action by the licensure board. Please refer to page 12